



Guidelines for the development of Management Plans for Protected Areas

Erika Vaida-Bela
Propark Foundation for Protected Areas
Romania



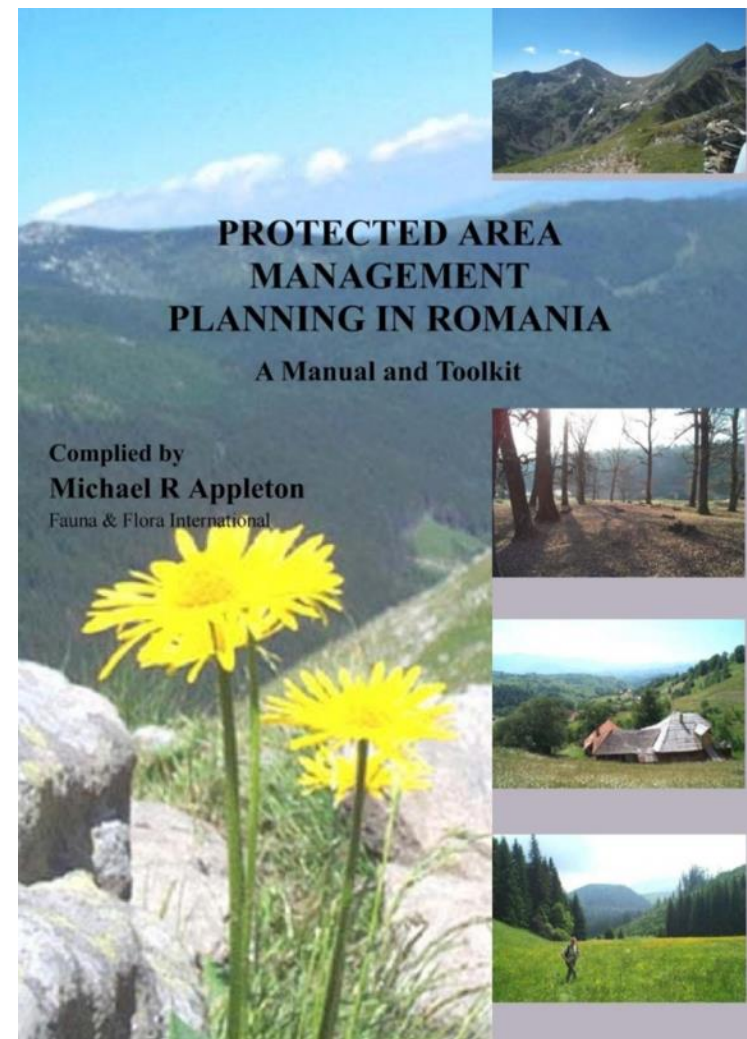
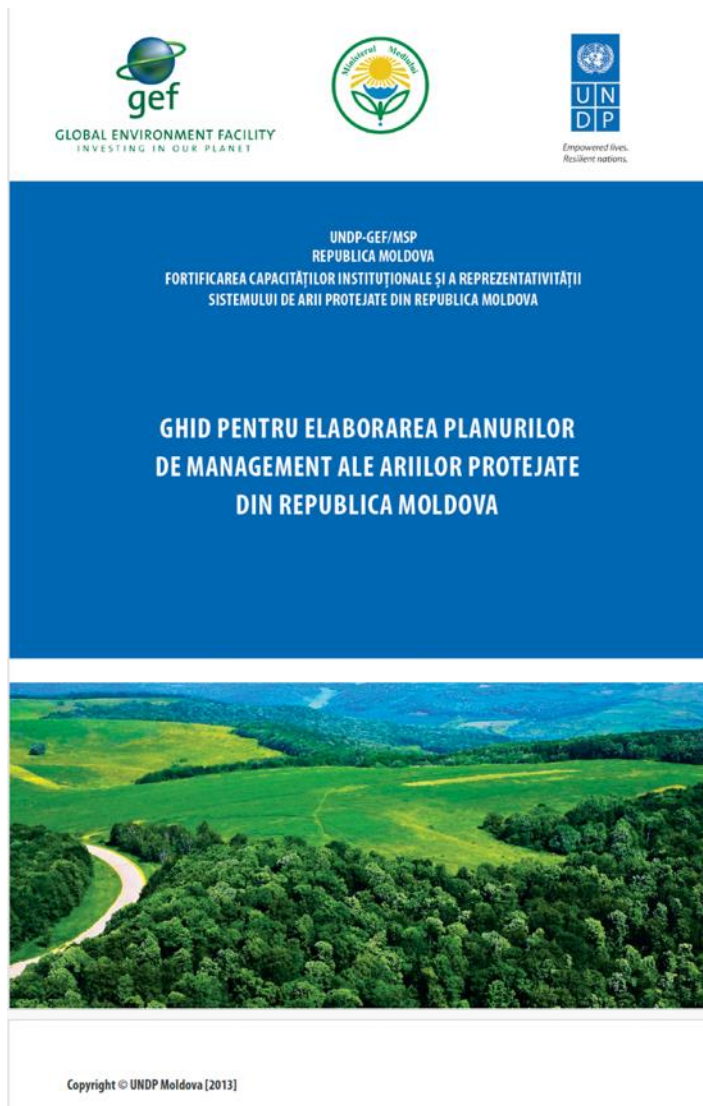
“Improving governance of protected areas in Moldova through institutional development, capacity development and habitat restoration”



Guidelines for Protected Area Management Planning

2025

Management Planning Guidelines



<https://propark.ro/en/publicatii/protected-area-management-planning-manual-724.html>

<https://propark.ro/ro/publicatii/elaborarea-planurilor-de-management-pentru-ariile-protejate-din-republica-moldova-228.html>

Quality content and uniform structure for management plans

Minimum recommendations for management plans:

- well-founded,
- with relevant information,
- justified proposals for measures and actions, including those necessary to adapt management to climate change,
- logical structure and content and a uniform presentation at national level.

Contains useful information and recommendations:

- for the process of developing/revising a management plan,
- on how to structure the information and content of a management plan,
- for establishing the legal framework for a uniform development of management plans for protected areas,
- for developing the methodology and procedures for evaluating and approving management plans by empowered/authorized entities.



With funding from
 Austrian
Development
Cooperation

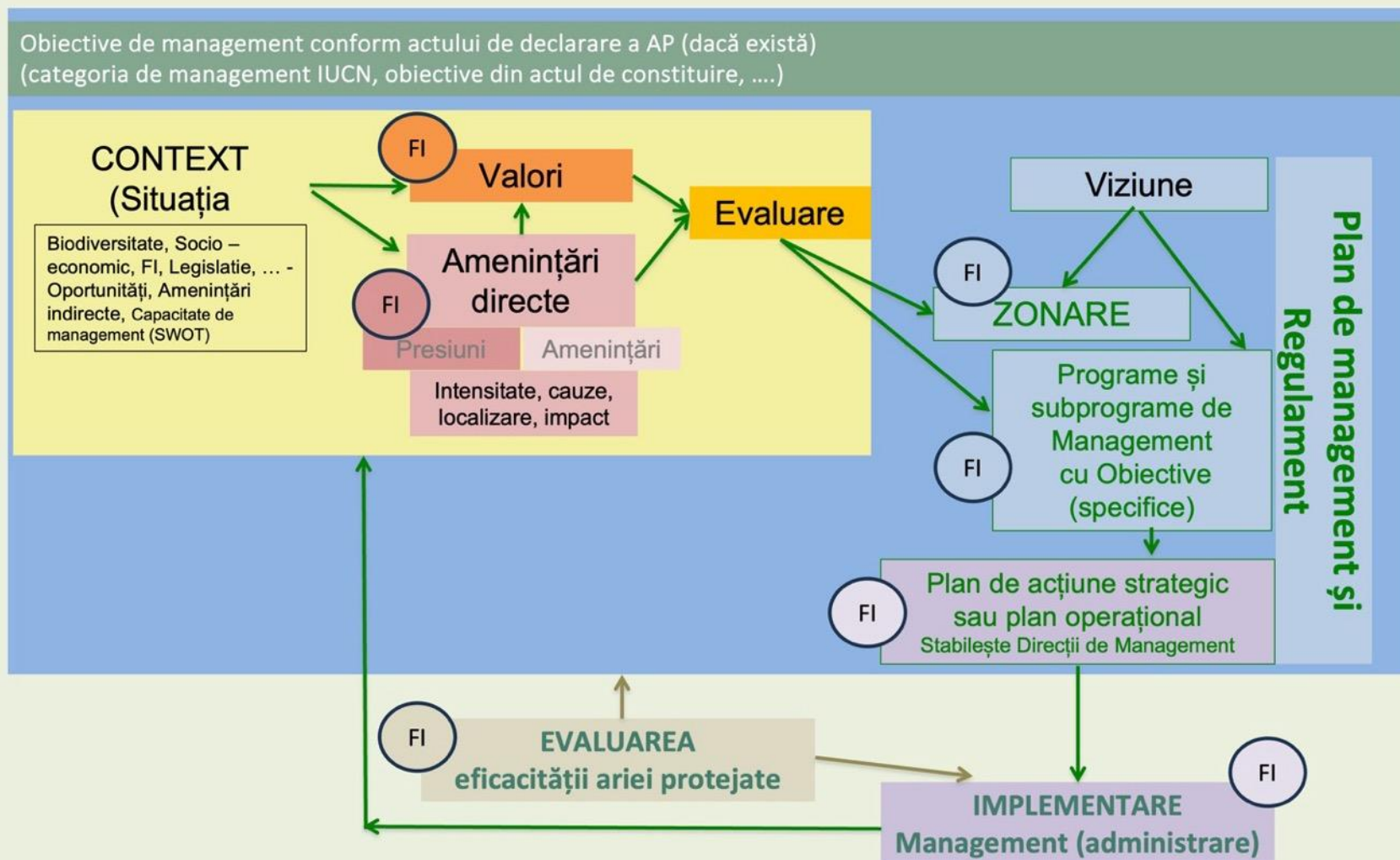


**Ghid de elaborare a planurilor de management
pentru arii protejate**

2025



Schema logică a ariilor protejate



Schema este valabilă pentru toate tipurile de arii protejate, indiferent de categoria de management!

Mo
Pro

PA Management Planning for adaptive and participatory management



Protected areas after 150 years

1864

1909

Present



(Strict) Protection



Conservation

USA

1864 – Yosemite Nature Reserve (USA)

1872 – Yellowstone National Park (USA)

Australia

1879 – Royal National Park (Australia)

Africa

1898 – Sabi Wildlife Reserve (later Kruger NP, RAS)

Europe

1909 - 9 national parks in Sweden

Europe adapted quicker and better



Protected areas after 150 years

Strict protection to **conservation**

Conservation = (strict) protection +
sustainable resource management +
restoration (species, habitats, ecosystems)

Now we know that:

- Semi-natural habitats and mosaic landscapes resulted from human intervention are valuable
- *PAs can be established for any combination of approaches, from strict protection (scientific purposes) to sustaining responsible development models*



PROTECTED AREAS - complexity

Many and divers management objectives =
Increased complexity

Strict protection



Research



Recreation



Needs for natural resources



Model for sustainable development



Preservation of cultural and traditional values



Species and habitat conservation



Preservation of ecosystem services



Model approaches for sustainable development



Sustainable use of natural resources



Tourism and recreation



Education



Awareness raising



Wilderness protection



Scientific research

Most of the PAs have multiple functions, i.e. multiple and diverse management objectives, related to:





Species, habitats, ecosystems



Ecosystem services



Wilderness



Natural resources

PAST - NOW

Past: VALUES - species, habitats (forests) and landscapes (for scenery)

Now: species, natural and semi-natural habitats, landscapes (not only scenery), traditional cultural values, ...



Cultural and traditional values



Features for tourism and recreation



Values for education



Resources and lessons for sustainable development

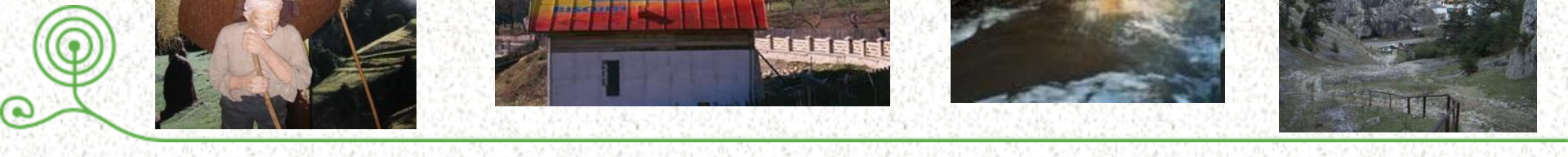


Pressures and Threats

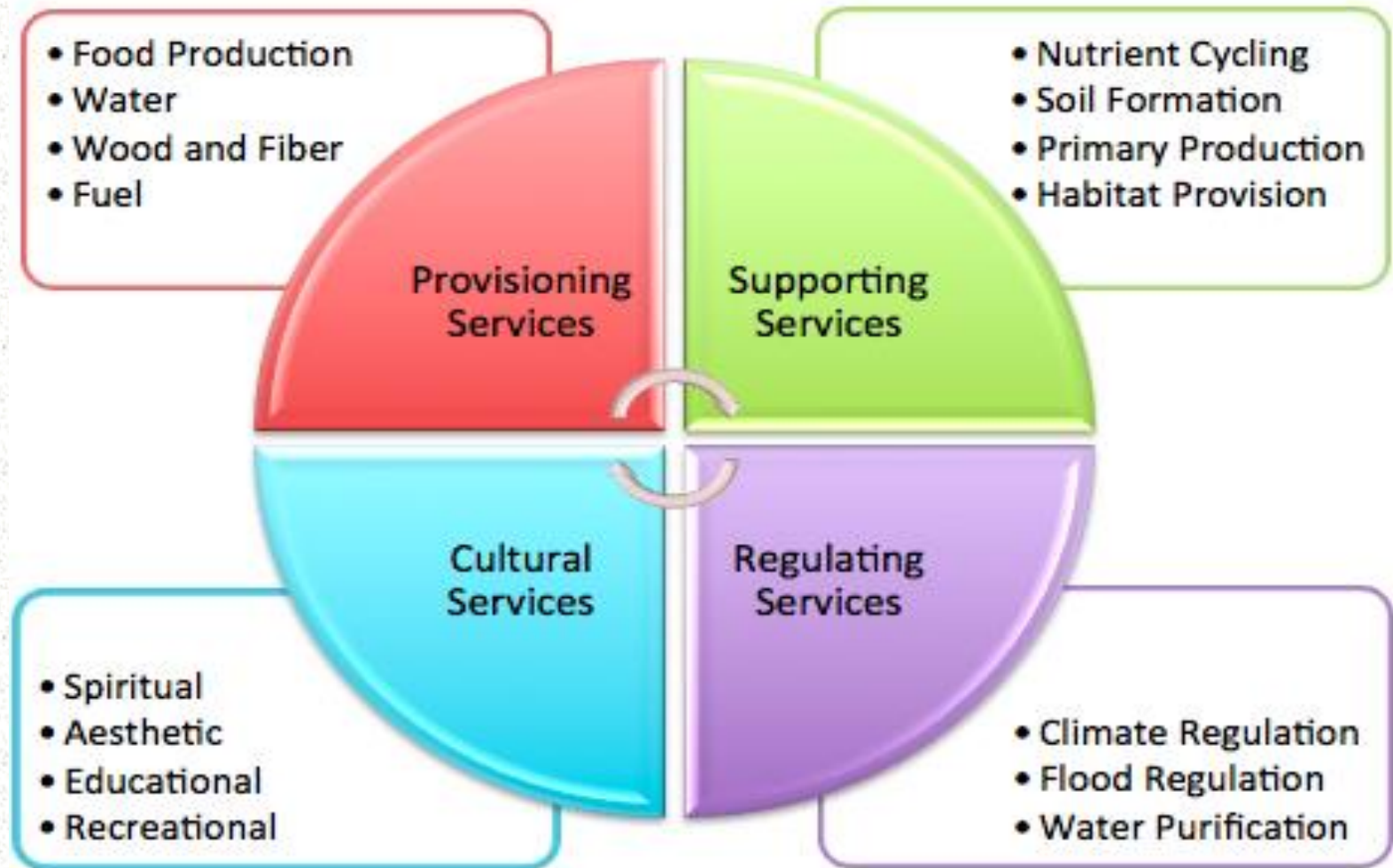
Many Threats, some increasing

Unpredictable Threats or

Threats with limited control at the PA level



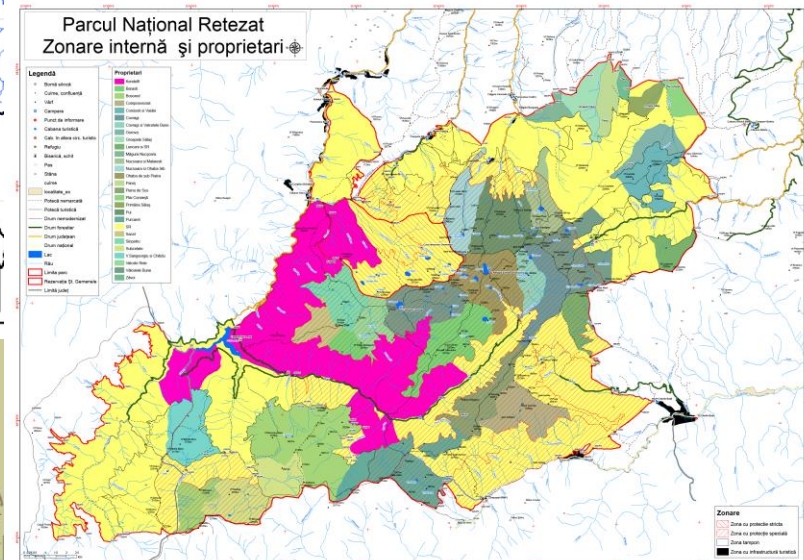
Now we consider a much wider range of values



Source: Millenium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005.

PROTECTED AREAS

Ownership and land-use rights

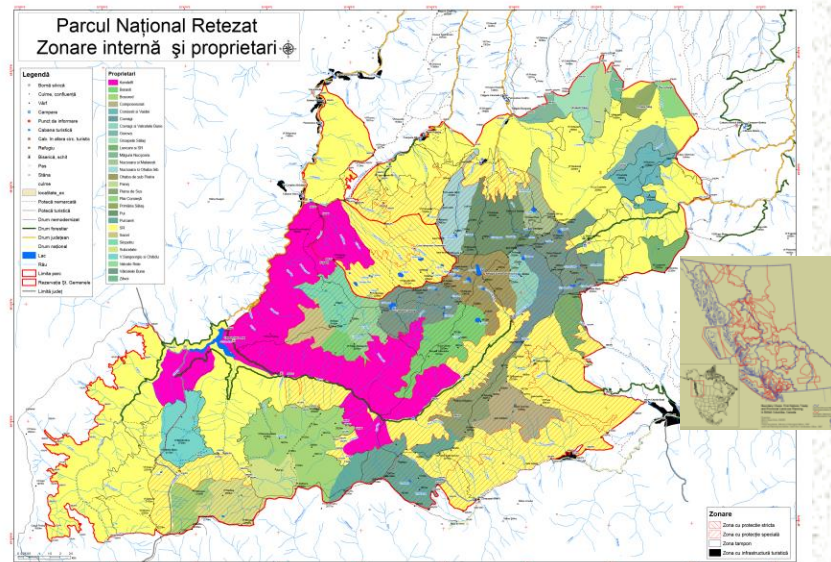
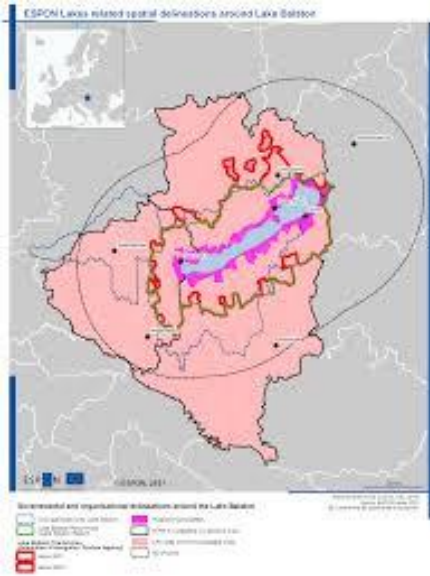


We consider also non formal land and resource rights

Diverse landuse rights



PROTECTED AREAS Governance



PROTECTED AREAS

New objectives

Research Strict protection



Recreation



PA Team

Needs for natural resources



Model for sustainable development



Preservation of cultural and traditional values



Sustainable use of natural resources



Tourism and recreation



Species and habitat conservation



Preservation of ecosystem services



Model approaches for sustainable development



Wilderness protection



Scientific research

Most of the PAs have multiple functions, i.e. multiple and diverse management objectives, related to:



Education



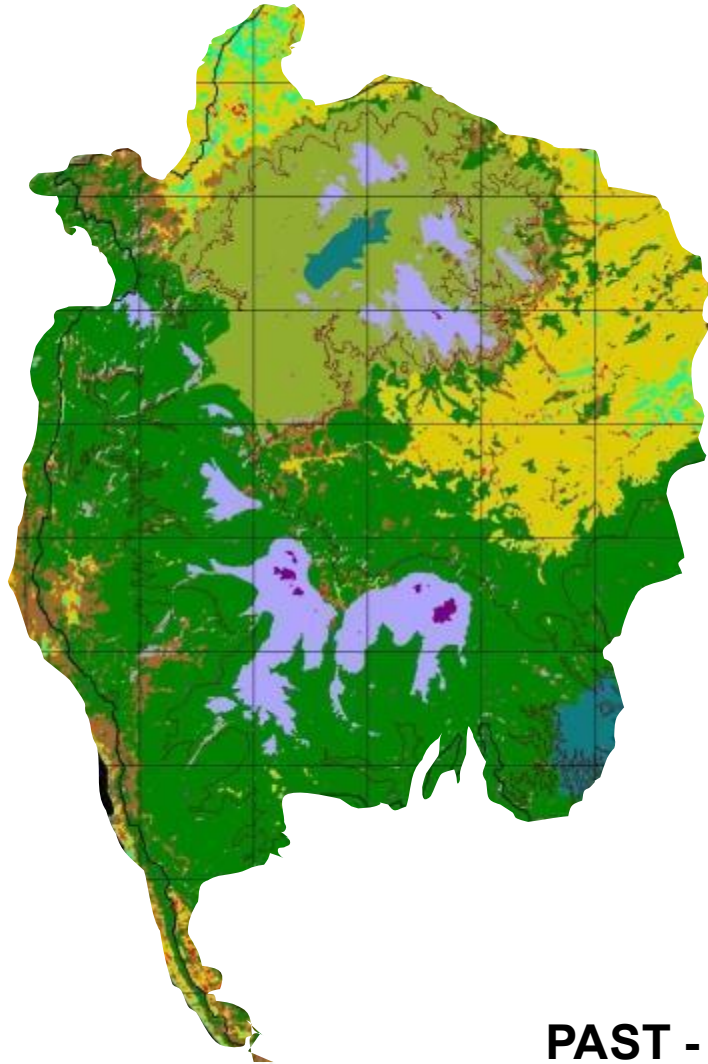
Awareness raising



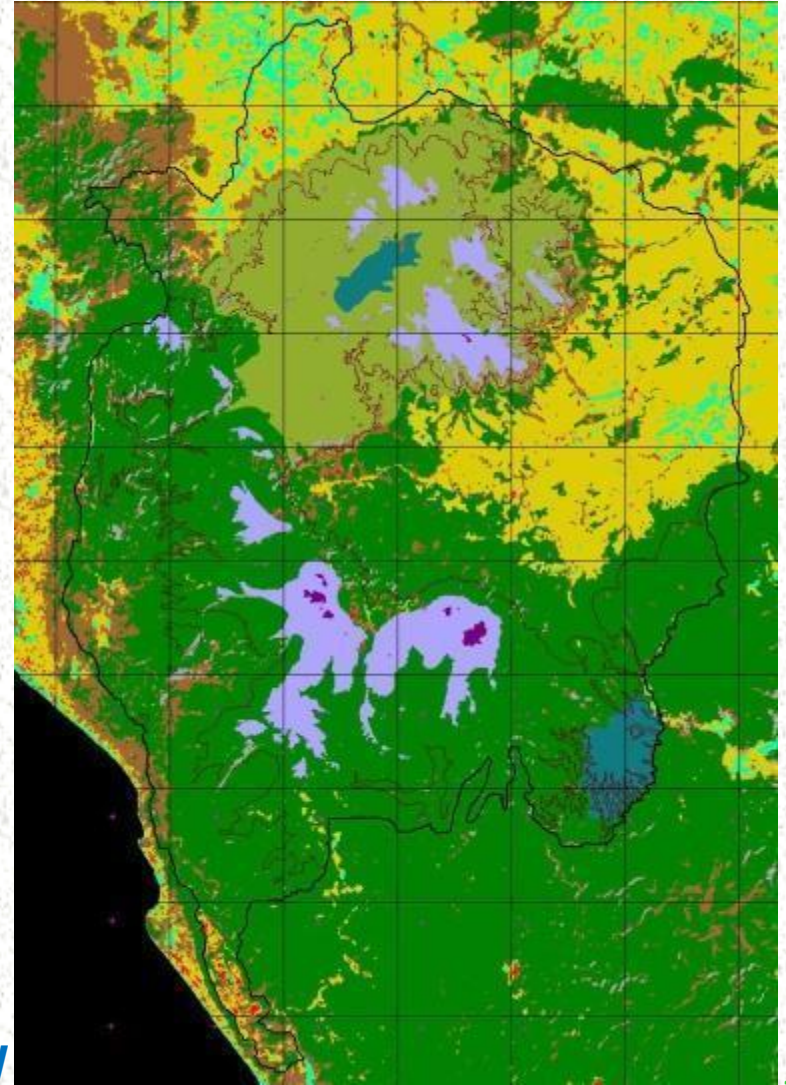
Participatory approaches to Governance and Management

PAs - Connectivity

Past: PAs as islands...



Now: we consider wider ecosystems and landscapes with PAs as part of these



PAST - NOW

We used to use fixed plans in the style of engineering



$$A + B - (C/D) = E$$



Planning and management

Now we try to manage adaptively

what are other
words for
adapted?



altered, suited, appropriate,
qualified, fit, becoming,
adjusted, convenient, suitable,
modified



Thesaurus.plus

PAST - NOW

Reactive management



PAST - NOW

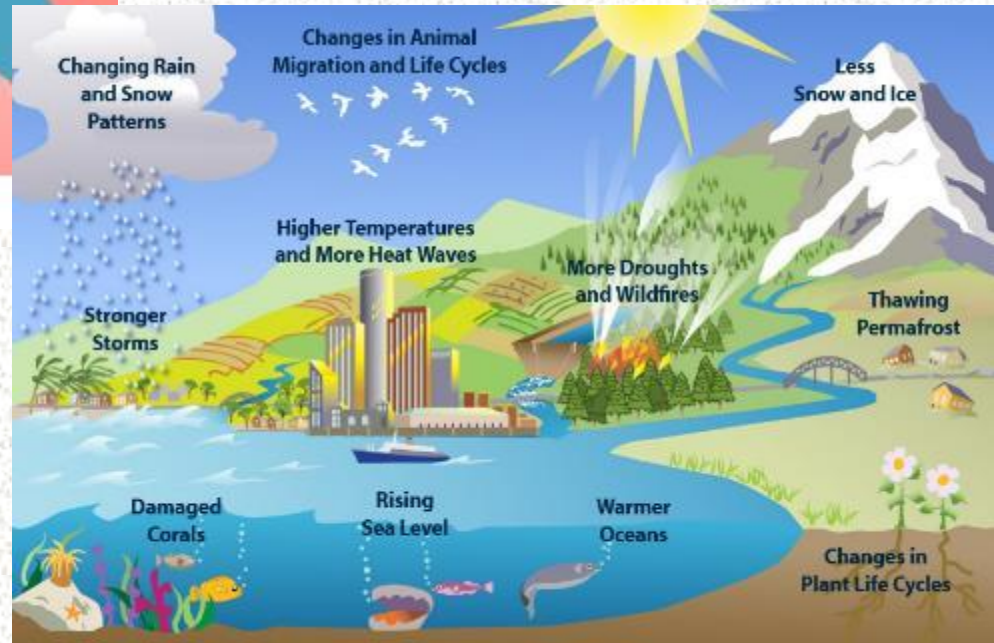
We used to deal with



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Site based problems

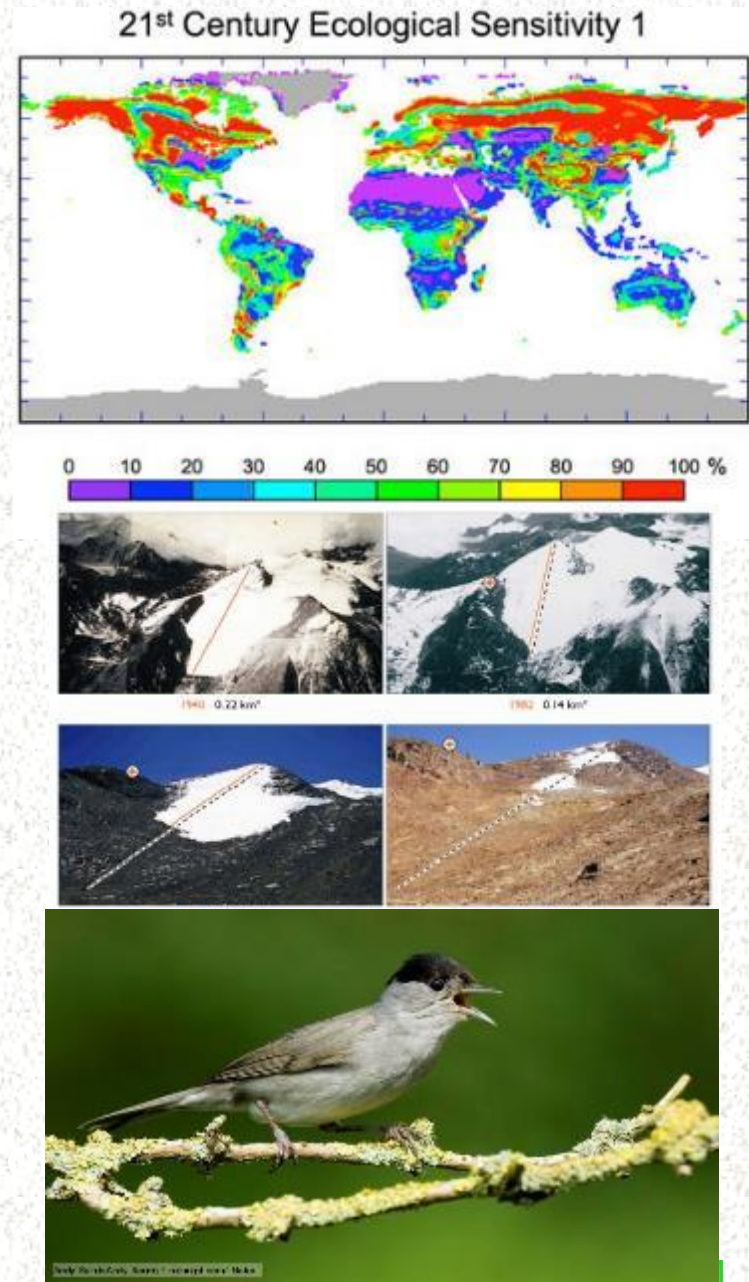
Global problems



Climate change: Ecological Challenges

In general

- Ecosystems are shifting to higher latitudes
- Ecosystems are shifting to higher altitudes
- Ecosystems are shifting to different aspects (South to North)
- Patterns of weather are changing
- Flowering seasons are changing
- Animal behaviour is changing



Climate change: Human Challenges for PAs

- Agricultural suitability of land is changing
- People are affected by climatic extremes
- Water is becoming a scarcer resource in many places
- Patterns of settlement, land and resource use are changing
- PAs are coming under new pressures, but are also supplying important services



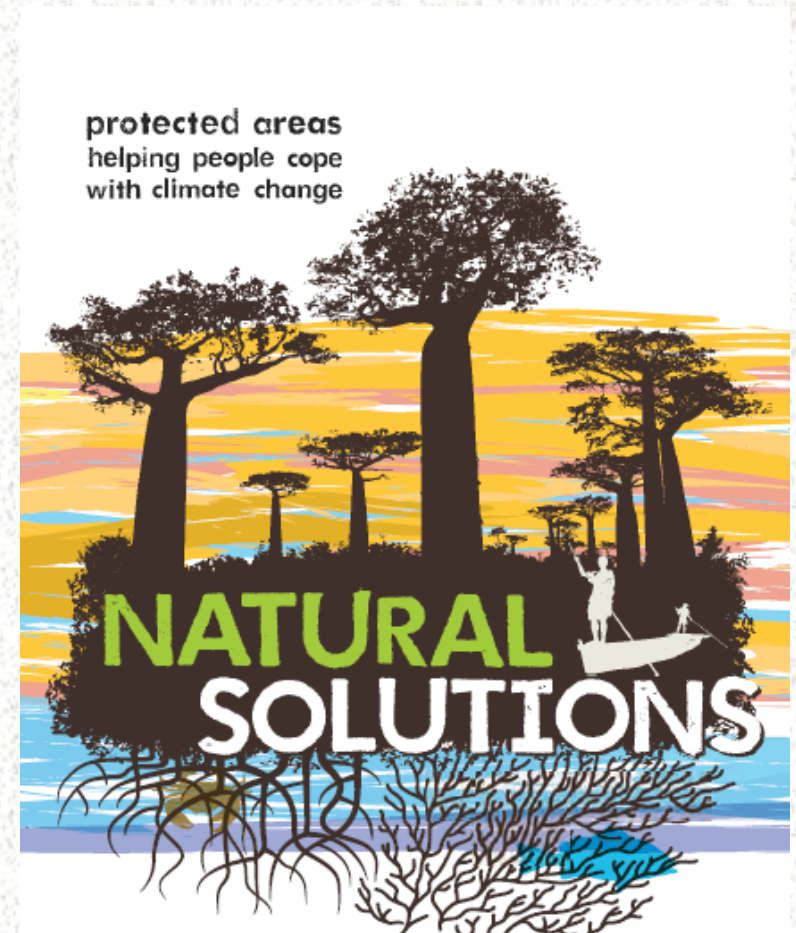
Climate change and management planning

We need to design and manage PAs and PA systems for ecosystems and species distributions of the future



Climate change and management planning

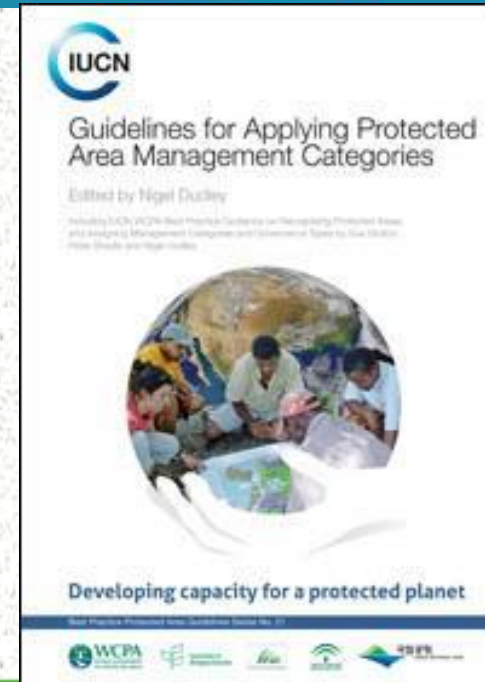
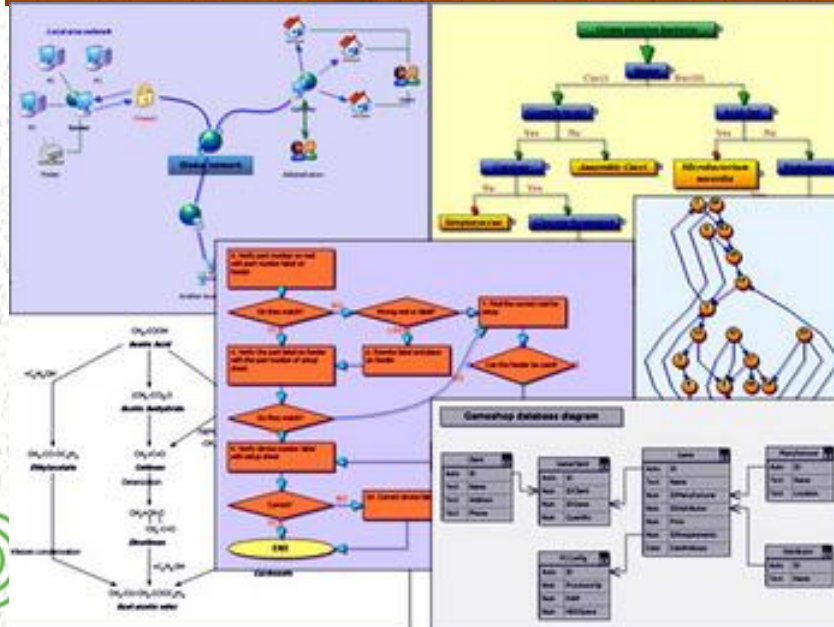
- We need to manage for the secondary impacts and human responses to climate change
- We need to show that PAs can make a positive contribution to adaptation and mitigation (see IUCN Natural Solutions Programme)



PA Designation and Management Planning

Recipes and blueprints

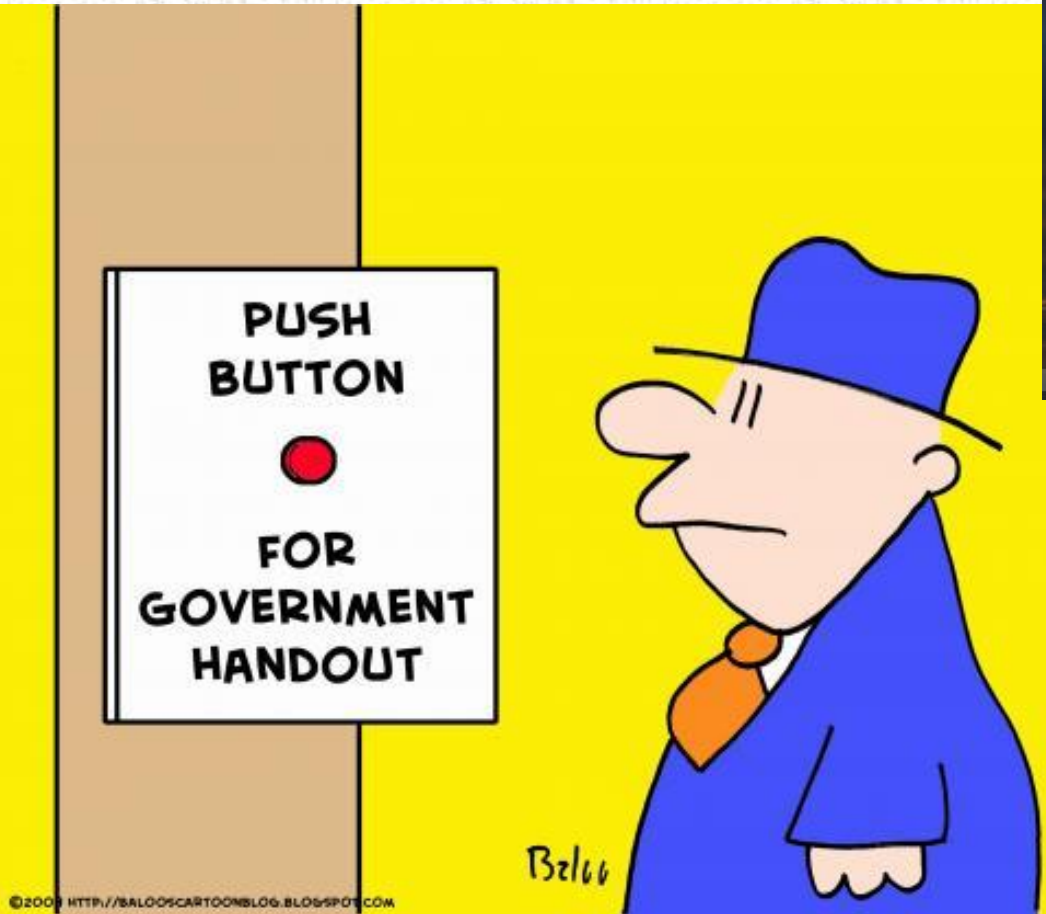
Tools and Guidelines



PAST - NOW

Funding

We used to rely just on the government to provide funding and resources



...now we build partnerships and find seek funding from many sources

And we are starting to embrace the
business approach

Efficiency

Performance

Effectiveness



**Value for
money
Targets**

Cost vs. benefit

PAs Need new Management Approaches

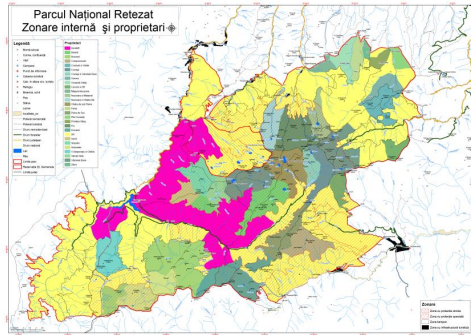
- Simple
- Short-medium term
- Hierarchical and centralised
- Reactive
- Focused on needs and interests of nature
- 'Island approach'
- Technocratic approach
- Engineering approach
- Government funded
- Complex
- Long term
- Participatory and decentralised
- Proactive
- Balancing needs of nature with needs of people
- Ecosystem approach
- Multi disciplinary approach
- Adaptive approach
- Diverse funding

PAST - NOW

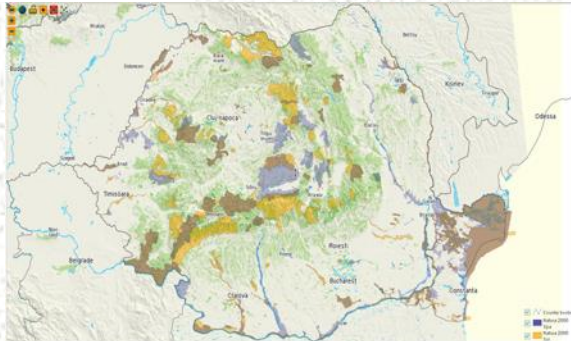
**Management Plan: an
internal administrative
document**

**Management Planning: a
participatory, adaptive
process**

PA Management Plans and Management – part of the PA System

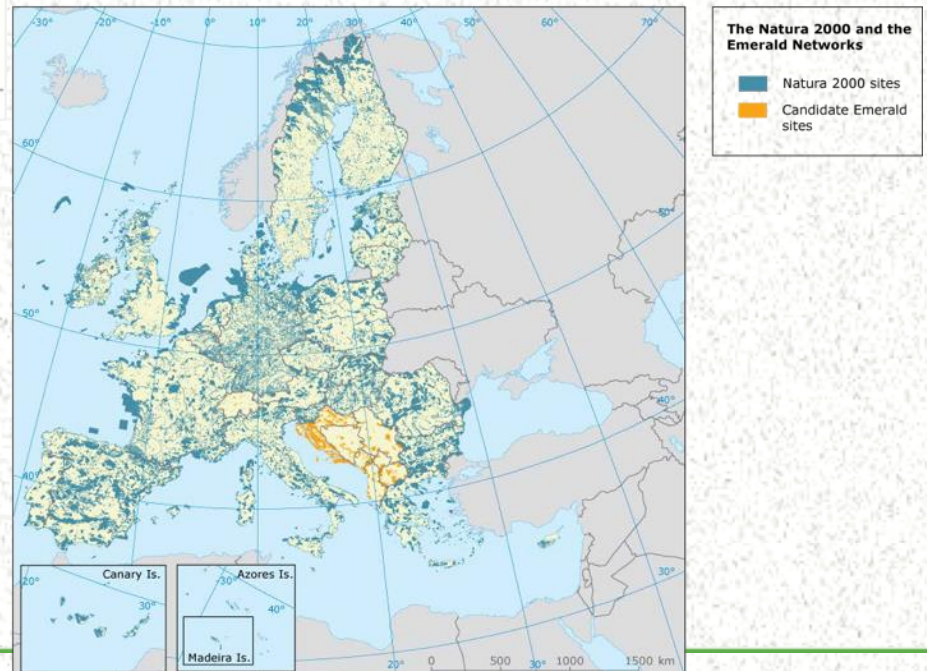


PA Management Plans



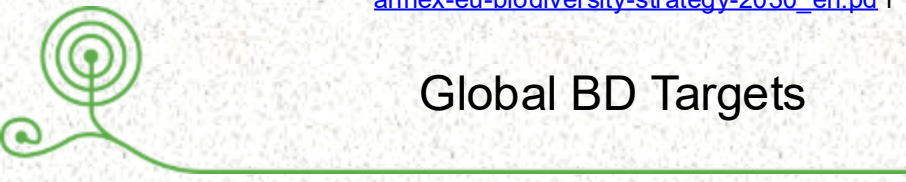
Very complex - we need good plans!!!

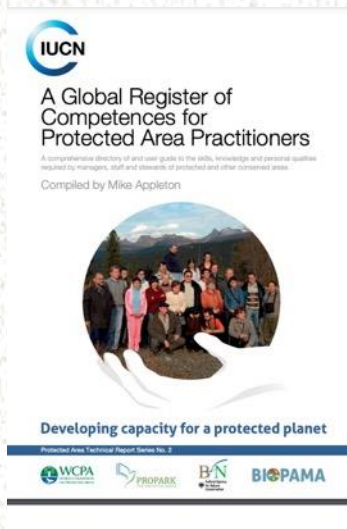
National Biodiversity Strategy / PA Strategy CBD Aichi Biodiversity Target 17



International Biodiversity Strategy
EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030
https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/communication-annex-eu-biodiversity-strategy-2030_en.pdf

Global BD Targets



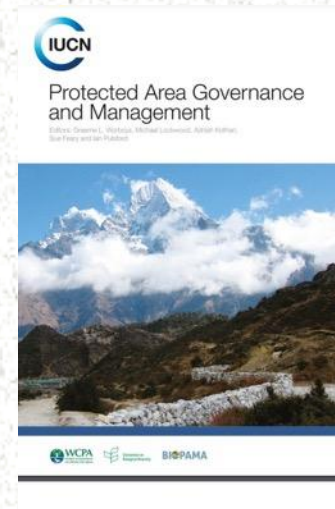


Competent PA Teams



Protected Areas Need:

JOINT PROJECTS
JOINT WORK



Engaged Stakeholders



Protected Areas need:

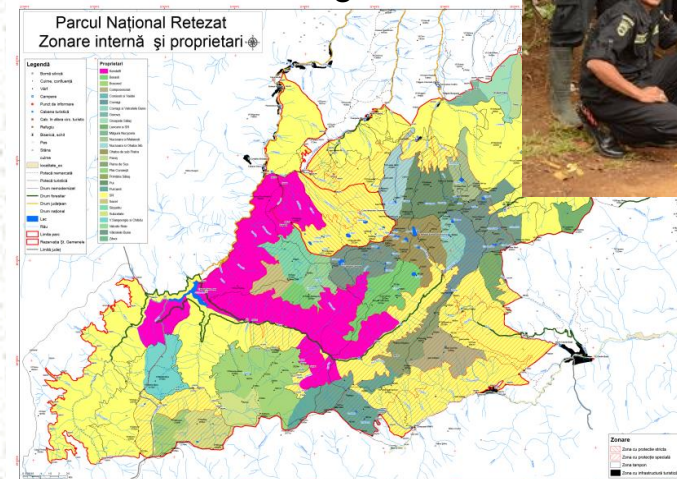
Clearly defined / mapped P&T

Pressures and Threats

Many Threats, some increasing
Unpredictable Threats or
Threats with limited control at the PA level



Zonation and PA Regulations



A good Management Plan

Management Objectives

Generic List of Management Programmes

1. Natural environment protection and management	- Species, habitats, ecosystems - Natural features.
2. Cultural heritage conservation	- Cultural and historic landscapes/features. - Traditions, customs etc.
3. Socio economic development & sustainable use	- Livelihoods and rural development - Traditional/subsistence & commercial use
4. Tourism and recreation	- Opportunities, facilities, visitor management - Marketing and promotion
5. Communication	- Information, interpretation, education - Awareness, PR and promotion
6/7. Others	...Ecological services, ex situ conservation etc.
8. Governance, management, administration	- Governance and participation - Staffing, finance, resources, planning

Action plan and Annual / Work Plans

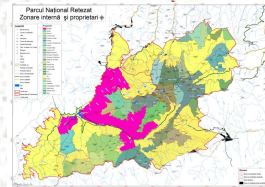


Stakeholder Engagement

PA Management – What do we need?



Stakeholder platforms -
consultative or decision maker



Management team

Management team working with stakeholder platforms

Agreements with landowners and compensation schemes

Expert Platform
(Scientific Council)



Partners



PA Management Team (Administration)



Volunteers

The Protected Area Management Plan - a guiding "force" -

